



Consommation et
Affaires commerciales Canada
Bureau des brevets
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0C9

Consumer and
Corporate Affairs Canada
Patent Office

(21) (A1) 2,097,099
(22) 1993/05/27
(43) 1994/03/24

5,077,087

⁵
(51) INTL.CL. G07F-017/24

(19) (CA) APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT (12)

(54) Method for Field Programming an Electronic Parking Meter

(72) Church, Donald W. - Canada ;
Martin, Scott R. - Canada ;
McGuirk, Kenneth J. - Canada ;
Doucette, John D. - Canada ;
Vallée, Richard E. - Canada ;

(71) Same as inventor

(30) (US) 07/950,097 1992/09/23

(57) 1 Claim

Notice: This application is as filed and may therefore contain an incomplete specification.

Canada

CCA 3254 (10-92) 41 7530-21-936-3254

2097099

ABSTRACT

An electronic parking meter is programmable in the field, in order to provide flexibility and adaptability to future conditions, by partitioning its software program into two independent modules, the smaller of which controls the replacement by a new program module of the other module or of itself.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for field programming an electronic parking meter, comprising:

(a) controlling data processing means of said parking meter by means of separate first and second program modules;

(b) providing a predetermined interrupt signal to said data processing means;

(c) causing said data processing means to request a third program module in response to said predetermined interrupt;

(d) said first program module causing said data processing means to store said third program module; and

(e) causing said data processing means to replace one of said first and second program modules with said third program module.

2097099

- 1 -

METHOD FOR FIELD PROGRAMMING AN ELECTRONIC PARKING METER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to parking meters in general, and in particular to electronic parking meters. 05 More particularly still, it relates to field programmable, and reprogrammable, parking meters.

2. Prior Art of the Invention

10 United Kingdom Patent application GB 2 077 475 published December 16, 1981 discloses a vehicle parking meter which differs from previous mechanically operated meters in that the coin registration, timing, and display functions are performed wholly by electronic 15 circuitry. Preferred form of display is of the liquid crystal type.

The power consumption of the apparatus is very low as it consists predominantly of CMOS circuitry and power 20 is provided by a battery whose charge is maintained by light-activated solar cells.

- 2 -

Functions additional to those provided by mechanical meters are provided and include cash totalization, cash display, settable parking charge per hour, settable parking periods, and provision for providing digital information from the meter to an external data-recording device.

05 Embodiments are described incorporating the RCA 1802 and RCA 1804 microprocessor together with 10 peripheral circuitry.

United States patent number 4,823,928 issued April 25, 1989 to Speas discloses an electronic parking meter system for receiving at least one type of coin or other payment device and having an electronic parking meter and an auditor. The electronic parking meter comprises a power source which may be a solar type power source, as well as, having terminals for connection to an external source of power. The meter also has a 15 microprocessor with a memory connected to the power supply. An electronic display is connected to the microprocessor and displays pertinent information for 20 the meter. The auditor may be connected to the

- 3 -

microprocessor in the electronic meter by means of a direct cable link or by infrared transmission. The electronic parking meter system may have a sonar range finder connected to the microprocessor in the meter
05 which detects the presence or absence of a vehicle in an associated parking space with the parking meter.

Both of the above prior art documents are incorporated herein by reference.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention endeavors to provide a
15 flexible, software controlled, parking meter. In order to be flexible, the meter must be able to accommodate changes in the coins it will accept after it has been in use in the field. It is also advantageous to be able to update or correct software "bugs" in the field. It is, 20 therefore, a feature of the present parking meter that software can be "downloaded" into it, preferably by wireless data communication, for example by means of intra-red (IR) receive and transmit channels.

- 4 -

Accordingly, the present invention provides a method for field programming an electronic parking meter comprising: (a) controlling data processing means of said parking meter by means of separate first and second program modules; (b) providing a predetermined interrupt signal to said data processing means; (c) causing said data processing means to request a third program module in response to said predetermined interrupt; (d) said first program module causing said data processing means to store said third program module; and (e) causing said data processing means to replace one of said first and second program modules with said third program module.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15

The preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described in conjunction with annexed drawings, in which:

20

Figure 1 is an overall block diagram of the parking meter of the present invention;

2097099

- 5 -

Figure 2 is a block diagram of the block labelled
ASIC in Figure 1;

05 Figure 3 is a block diagram of the communication
interface of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a high level flow-chart of the overall
software of the parking meter;

10 Figure 5 is a flow-chart of the block labelled
"Service IR Interrupt" in Figure 4; and

Figure 6 is a flow-chart of the block labelled
"Download Software" in Figure 4.

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, the parking
20 meter comprises an application specific integrated
circuit (ASIC) 10, communicating via DATA and ADDRESS
buses with a central processor (CPU) 11, a programmable
memory (EEPROM) 12, and a random access memory (RAM) 13.

25

2097099

- 6 -

The ASIC 10 also receives inputs from a coin shute 14 re
position, size and mass of a coin passing through; and
receives and transmits serial data SDIN and SDOUT,
respectively, from infra-red receiver (IR RCV) 15 and
05 infra-red transmitter (IR TX) 16. A voltage regulator
and controller (REG) 17 generates voltages V_{AA} and V_{DD}
from battery voltage V_{CC} . V_{AA} is necessary for powering
the ASIC 10, while V_{DD} powers the CPU 11, EEPROM 12 and
RAM 13. V_{CC} directly powers the IR transmitter 16 as
10 well as red and yellow LEDs 18 and 19. The ASIC 10
drives the liquid crystal displays (front and back) LCD0
and LCD1.

Figure 2 shows a block diagram of the ASIC 10,
15 which comprises an address bus interface 20, a time-base
clock 21 controlled by a 3.58 MHz crystal, a real-time
clock (RTC) 22 controlled by a micro-power (watch)
32.768 KHz crystal, an LCD display driver 23, a
programmable In/Out bus 24, a local RAM 25, a CPU
20 interrupt controller 26, an event counter 27, a coin
discrimination interface 28, a universal asynchronous
receiver/transmitter (UART) 29, and an IR communications
interface 30. All of the above are conventional units,

- 7 -

whose functions could also be implemented by means of software but are more economically implemented by means of an ASIC.

05 Figure 3 illustrates the interface of the IR communications interface 30 with other components. It comprises a modulator 31 and demodulator 32, a base-band selector 33, and a modulation detector 34, (which is strobed by an 8 millisecond window from the RTC 22 at a rate selectable from 1, 2, 8 or 32 Hz, in order to save power).

10 Figure 4 shows a flow chart of the overall system software, while Figures 5 and 6 show details of the blocks labelled "Service IR Interrupt" and "Download Software", respectively. In order to be able to field program the parking meters, the software has been divided into two distinct units: the "bootstrap software" and the "application software". Both may be replaced in the field under the control of the existing bootstrap software. Thus for purposes of the present invention the bootstrap software is the essential unit. The application software serves as the interface between

- 8 -

the electronic parking meter (EPM) and the user, and
should, therefore, be written in a high level language
(such as C) in order to be easily altered to suit
differing applications. The bootstrap software, on the
05 other hand, is a low-level program which serves as the
interface between the EPM hardware and the application
software.

10 The bootstrap is always the first program to run
whenever the EPM goes from "sleep" into operational
mode. In general, the primary job of the bootstrap is
to quickly jump to the application software if it is
present, however, if the application is not present,
then the bootstrap will attempt to perform a download of
15 application software.

When the bootstrap is invoked, it first initializes
the stack pointer and tests a SLEEP indicator bit in the
CPU STATUS CONTROL register to determine if the cause of
20 the wake up was due to an interrupt (SLEEP bit is set)
or to a manual EPM reset (SLEEP bit is clear). If the
SLEEP bit is set, the bootstrap tests the application
version byte for zero or non-zero to determine if

- 9 -

application software is present in the EPM. A non-zero
version byte will cause the bootstrap to enter the
application software, otherwise, the bootstrap assumes
control of the EPM. If the SLEEP bit was clear on entry
05 to the bootstrap, the bootstrap initializes the EPM I/O
ports and serial port, and assumes control of the EPM.

When the bootstrap assumes control of the EPM, it
immediately loads a software download utility into RAM
10 and enters it. Placing the download utility into RAM
permits downloading of either bootstrap or application
into the EEPROM since software is not executing from
EEPROM. The download utility will attempt to download
new EPM software (either bootstrap or application)
15 provided a remote terminal is requesting communications
with the EPM. Once software is loaded or the
communications link is removed the download utility will
exit back to the bootstrap. The bootstrap will then
retest the application version byte and enter the
application if the version byte is non-zero. Otherwise,
20 the bootstrap will enable automatic serial port
sampling, display "E001" and enter sleep mode.

- 10 -

The process of downloading software requires the use of two basic communication functions: put packet() and get packet(). Both functions transfer data through the serial port in a consistent format to be referred to as a packet. Details on packet format are described in Table 1 below. The put packet() routine assembles and transmits packets of data based on the length and address of the data field passed to it by the calling function. The get packet() routine polls the serial receiver looking for a valid packet of data. It will poll the receiver until it receives a valid packet, an erroneous packet, loses the communication link or times out. If a valid packet of data was received, get packed() will use a pointer passed by the calling function to store the data. The calling function will receive status information when get packet() returns to determine if it was successful.

2097099

- 11 -

Table 1 - Packet Format

	<u>Byte Number</u>	<u>Content</u>
05	0	SYNC
	1	STX
	2	Packet Length (LSB)
	3	Packet Length (MSB)
	4	Packet Type
	5	Packet Sequence
10	6	Start of Data Field
	N	End of Data Field
	N+1	Checksum
	N+2	ETX

15 Notes:

1. Packet length and checksum includes bytes 4 to N.
2. Packet types are either BOOTSTRAP or APPLICATION.
3. Packet sequences always starts at zero.

The EPM always show "dddd" on its LCD display while the download utility is operating. The general philosophy of the communications between a remote terminal and the EPM is that the EPM software always initiates data transfers. Therefore, the EPM download utility starts a software download procedure by transmitting "request-for-software" control packets on a regular basis and waiting for a response. The remote

- 12 -

terminal responds with a "software-initiation" packet
that contains information such as software type, start
address and the length (in packets and in bytes) of the
software to be downloaded. The download utility
05 extracts this information and then asks for each packet
of software in succession. As each software packet is
being received the data is temporarily stored in RAM so
it can be sumchecked before committing it to EEPROM. If
the sumcheck fails the packet, it will be requested
10 again. During this time, the EPM will display "ddxx"
where "xx" is the number of packets left to be
downloaded. After all packets are received, the
download utility will exit back to the bootstrap.

15 If the software to be downloaded is bootstrap, the
number of software packets for the download must be one.
This is done to prevent the possibility of a
communications link disruption from leaving a partially
loaded bootstrap in the EPM. As a result, the entire
20 bootstrap code (1024 bytes or less) will be safely
loaded into the EPM RAM before updating is carried out.
It should also be noted that new bootstrap will void any
application that may have been present in the EPM.

- 13 -

Application software can be downloaded with a variable number of packets of variable length. While each packet is sumchecked before it is written to EEPROM, there is a final sumcheck performed on the 05 entire application code in the EEPROM after download is complete. If the code is verified, the download utility will update the application version byte and return to the bootstrap, otherwise, it will restart the download procedure. Should the communications link be removed 10 any time after a download is started, the download utility will clear the application version byte and exit back to the bootstrap.

The bootstrap code which includes the utilities 15 discussed above along with several support functions occupies not more than the first 1024 bytes of the EEPROM. The functions which have been included in the bootstrap are shared by the bootstrap and application. Independence of bootstrap and application is maintained 20 by requiring the application to use a jump table located in the bootstrap to use the bootstrap functions. All shared functions in the bootstrap have been written so that they abide by standard "C" calling conventions:

2097099

- 14 -

disable watchdog code()	- disables watchdog timer circuit
05 getpacket code(timeout, *buffer)	- gets a packet from the serial port
go to sleep code (interrupt mask)	- puts the EPM into sleep mode
10 initialize uart code()	- initializes the UART
lcdputhex code(hexval)	- displays "hexval" in hex on the EPM
15 memcpy code(*source, *dest, length)	- copies "length" bytes from src to dest
putpacket code(packet len, *buffer)	- transmits a packet out the serial port
20 reset watchdog code()	- enable watchdog timer circuit

25 A full pseudo code source listing for the bootstrap software is given in the following fourteen pages.

30

35 A suitable hand-held device for wireless (infrared) communication with the parking meter is comprised of a PSION ORGANISER II, made by Psion (Psionhouse, Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT, England) together with a EXTECH IR COMMS LINK (Part Numbers 767321, 767322, 767324) made by Extech Instruments Corporation (335 Bear 40

45 Hill Road, Waltham MA 02154).

File BS :

Routine download_software :

05 Load interrupt mask with correct bits
 Call lcdputhex to display download status

Label ask_for_control_packet :

10 Load request packet with data
 Call request_and_receive_packet

If return value was negative
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

15 Else if return value was 0
 - Jump exit_no_download

Else if received packet not correct length
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

20 Else if received packet not correct type
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

25 Else if received packet not correct sequence
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

Else if going to receive bootstrap and not just 1 block
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

30 Else if battery low
 - Jump to ask_for_control_packet

35 Label set_up_for_download:
Setup pointer to EEPROM location
Set packet counter to one
Save current packet sequence

40 Label ask_for_next_data_packet :
Call lcdputhex to display status
Call request_and_receive_packet

45 If return value negative
 - Jump ask_for_next_data_packet

Else if return value zero
 - Jump exit_download_fail

50 Else if not correct packet type
 - Jump ask_for_control_packet

Else if not correct sequence
 - Jump ask_for_next_packet

55 Increment packet counter

Label received_next_data_packet :

Setup number of bytes and memory location to read & write
Call do_eeprom_write to copy data to EEPROM

05 If still more packets
- Jump ask_for_next_data_packet

10 If downloaded bootstrap code
- Jump bs_download_ok

Setup length, addresses and checksum
Call verify_eeprom

15 If checksum not zero
- Jump ask_for_control_packet

Label write_version :

20 Setup memory address
Call do_eeprom_write to write data to eeprom
Clear sleep bit

25 Label exit_no_download :

25 Return to caller

Label exit_download_fail :

30 Clear version information
Jump write_version

Label bs_download_ok :

35 Jump to address 0000H

{-----}

40 Routine do_eeprom_write :

Set eeprom write enable line
Calculate page boundary
If number of bytes < 256
- Jump check_lsb

45 Label go_to_write_page:

Load number of bytes to page boundary
Jump write_page

50 Label check_lsb:

If number of bytes => page boundary
- Jump got_to_write_page

55 Else
- Jump write_page

60 {-----}

```
Routine page_mode :
    If bytes > 255
        - Jump max_page_write
05    Else if bytes = 0
        - Jump exit_page_mode
    Else if bytes < 32
        - Jump write_page
10    Label max_page_write:
        Set bytes to write to 32
15    Label write_page :
        If not finished
            - Jump write_page
20    Label wait_for_write_cycle :
        If bit 7 at both source and destination not the same
            - Jump wait_for_write_cycle
25    Else
        - Decrement counters
30    Jump page_mode
    Label exit_page_mode:
        Return
35 {-----}
Routine bootstrap :
    Setup start of ram
40    If sleep bit clear
        - Jump bootstrap_control
    Label epm_software_exists_? :
45    If Call check_version.. returns zero
        - Jump go_get_software
    Label jump_to_software:
50    Jump to start of software (CSTARTUP in application listing)
{-----}
```

Routine bootstrap_control:

Turn on LCD
Setup IO data directions
Call initialize_uart_code
Delay for hardware

Label go_get_software :

Call init_ram_funcs
Call download_software...

If Call check_version... returns non-zero
- Jump jump_to_software

Label bootstrap_ok :

Call lcdputhex_code to indicate status

Label bootstrap_sleep :

Call go_to_sleep_code

{-----}

Routine check_version :

Compare version in eeprom with passed parameter
Return with zero flag status

{-----}

Routine init_ram_funcs :

Initialize RAM routines and variables.
Copy functions starting at 0000 to ram_func_end to ram.
Return to caller

{-----}

Routine request_and_receive_packet :

Save address of packet we want to get.
Load number of data bytes in request packet.
Call putpacket_code
Retreive address of packet to get.

If Call getpacket_code... for next packet not successful
- Jump exit_no_kick

Else
- Call reset_watchdog_code.

Label exit_no_kick:

Return to caller

{-----}

- 10 -

Routine verify_eeprom :

Save parameter checksum
Calculate checksum from ram locations
05 Set carry flag by comparing
Return to caller

{-----}

10 Address ram_func_buffer :
declare 200H bytes

Address request_packet :

15 Address request_type :
declare 1 byte

Address request_sequence :
declare 1 byte

20 Address request_data :
declare 17 byte

Address ctrl_type :
25 declare 1 byte

Address ctrl_sequence:
declare 1 byte

30 Address dnld_start :
declare 2 bytes

Address version :
35 declare 4 bytes

Address dnld_length :
declare 2 bytes

Address chksum :
40 declare 1 byte

Address dnld_type :
declare 1 byte

45 Address num_packetsv:
declare 1 byte

Address data_packet :

50 Address data_type :
declare 1 byte

Address data_sequence :
55 declare 1 byte

Address data :
declare MAX_PACKET_LEN bytes

{-----}

File GET :

Routine g_tpacket_code :

05 Label get_SYNC:
 Turn on receive data enable bit.
 Turn on baud clock.
10 If Call check_abort... indicates abort
 - Jump exit_lost_link
 If Call packet_getc... gets no character
 - Jump exit_timeout
15 Else if character is not what's expected
 - Jump get_SYNC
 If Call check_abort indicates abort
 - Jump exit_lost_link
 If Call packet_getc gets no character
 - Jump exit_timeout
25 Else if character is not what's expected
 - Jump get_SYNC
 If Call check_abort indicates abort
 - Jump exit_lost_link
30 If Call packet_getc gets no character
 - Jump exit_timeout
 Save character
35 If Call check_abort indicates abort
 - Jump exit_lost_link
 If Call packet_getc... gets no character
 - Jump exit_timeout
 Save character, now have length of expected data
 Setup pointers to where to store the data
 Initialize checksum value
45 Label get_next_byte :
 If Call check_abort... indicates abort
 - Jump exit_lost_link
50 If Call packet_getc... gets no character
 - Jump exit_timeout
 Update pointer to next location
 Add character to checksum
 If more data left to get
 - Jump get_next_byte

```
Label get_check_sum :
    If Call check_abort . . . indicates abort
        - Jump exit_lost_link
05    If Call packet_getc . . . gets no character
        - Jump exit_timeout
    Save checksum we just got
10    If Call check_abort . . . indicates abort
        - Jump exit_lost_link
    If Call packet_getc . . . gets no character
15    - Jump exit_timeout
    Else if not expected character
        - Jump get_sync
20    If calculated checksum and received checksum not the same
        - Jump exit_bad_chksum
    Jump exit_return
25    Label exit_lost_link :
        Set status
        Jump exit_return
30    Label exit_timeout :
        Set IO2 to output
        Drive IR enable from IO2
        Drive IR enable high.
35    Delay for hardware
        Drive IR enable low.
        Drive IR enable from ASIC RXE line.
        Set status
        Jump exit_return
40    Label exit_bad_chksum :
        Set status
45    Label exit_return :
        Turn off receive data enable bit.
        Return to caller
50    {-----}
```

- 22 -

Routine pack t_getc :

Label check_for_data :

05 If no data in receive buffer
- Jump check_for_timeout

Save new character
Clear carry flag for success

10 Jump exit

Label check_for_timeout :

If Call check_abort(..) indicates abort
- Jump exit

If not timed out yet
Jump check_for_data

20 Set carry flag for failure

Label exit:

Return to caller

25 {-----}

- 23 -

File MEMCPY :

Routine memcpy_code :

05 Clear carry flag
Get address of last BS code space byte
Subtract destination from it

10 If illegal destination
- Jump exit_failure

Call init_ram_funcs()
Call do_eeprom_write()

15 Label exit_success :

Load register with success for caller
Return to caller

20 Label exit_failure:
Load register with failure for caller
Return to caller

25 {-----}

File PUT :**Routine putpacket_code:**

05 Turn on baud clock.
 If call packet_putc() to send first character of packet fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

10 If call packet_putc() to send second character fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

15 If call packet_putc() to send third character fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

20 If call packet_putc() to send fourth character fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

25 Initialize checksum value
 Start at first character to transmit

 Label while_buf_not_empty :
 If no characters left to do
 - Jump exit

30 Get next character from buffer
 If call packet_putc() to send character fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

 Add to current checksum

35 Jump while_buf_not_empty

 Label exit :
 If call packet_putc() to send checksum fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

40 If call packet_putc() to send last character fails
 - Jump exit_lost_link

45 Load register to indicate success
 Return to caller

 Label exit_lost_link :
 Load register to indicate failure
 Return to caller

{-----}

Routine packet_putc :

 Delay for hardware

05 Label buf_not_empty :

 If call check_abort... indicates abort
 - Jump putc_exit

10 Get status of serial register.
 Test transmit buffer empty.
 Wait for buffer to clear (previous char).
 Write char to transmit buffer

15 Label putc_exit :
 Return to caller

{-----}

20 Routine check_abort :

 If coin_interrupt or clock_interrupt or Not IR interrupt
 - Return abort to caller

25 Return continue to caller

{-----}

File LCDHEX :**Routine lcdputhex_code :**

05 Retrieve digits from parameter
 Point to first LCD register
 Setup for first nibble

10 Label next_hex_digit :
 Retrieve current nibble (working left to right) from parameter
 Point to LCD character to display.
 Get LCD character to display from lookup table.
 Display it at the current LCD digit.
15 Point to next LCD display digit.
 Increment current nibble

 If nibble < 5
 - Jump next_hex_digit
20 Return to caller

{-----}

25 Address _lcdhexchars :

Define variables for each digit 0..F

{-----}

30 File SLEEP :**Routine go_to_sleep_code :**

35 Call initialize_uart_code.
 Mask on the correct interrupts
 Sleep with IR on, baud clock off.
 Make RKE the input to IO2
40 Clear the sleep bit
 Wait a bit for system
 Halt system

{-----}

45 File UART :**Routine initialize_uart_code :**

50 Setup uart with correct baud, parity etc.
 Output character to uart's transmit register to initialize
 Delay for hardware to send start bit
 Return to caller

{-----}

File WATCHDOG :

Routine disable_watchdog_code :

05 Get current byte value.
 Set watchdog bits to disable value.
 Disable watchdog.
 Return to caller

10 {-----}

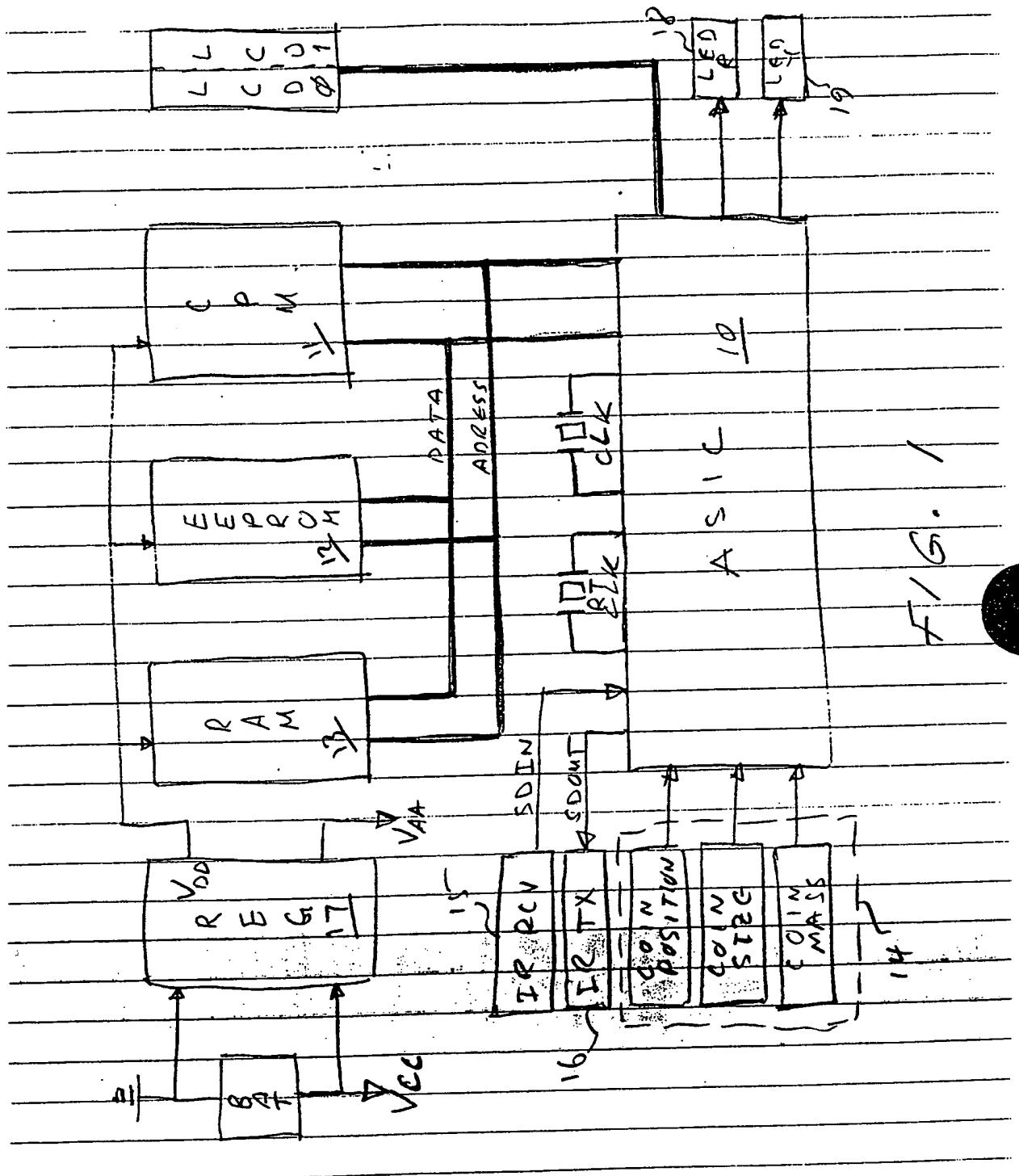
Routine reset_watchdog_code :

15 Call disable_watchdog_code(17)
 Get current byte value.
 Set watchdog bits to enable value.
 Enable watchdog
 Return to caller

20 {-----}

25

2097099



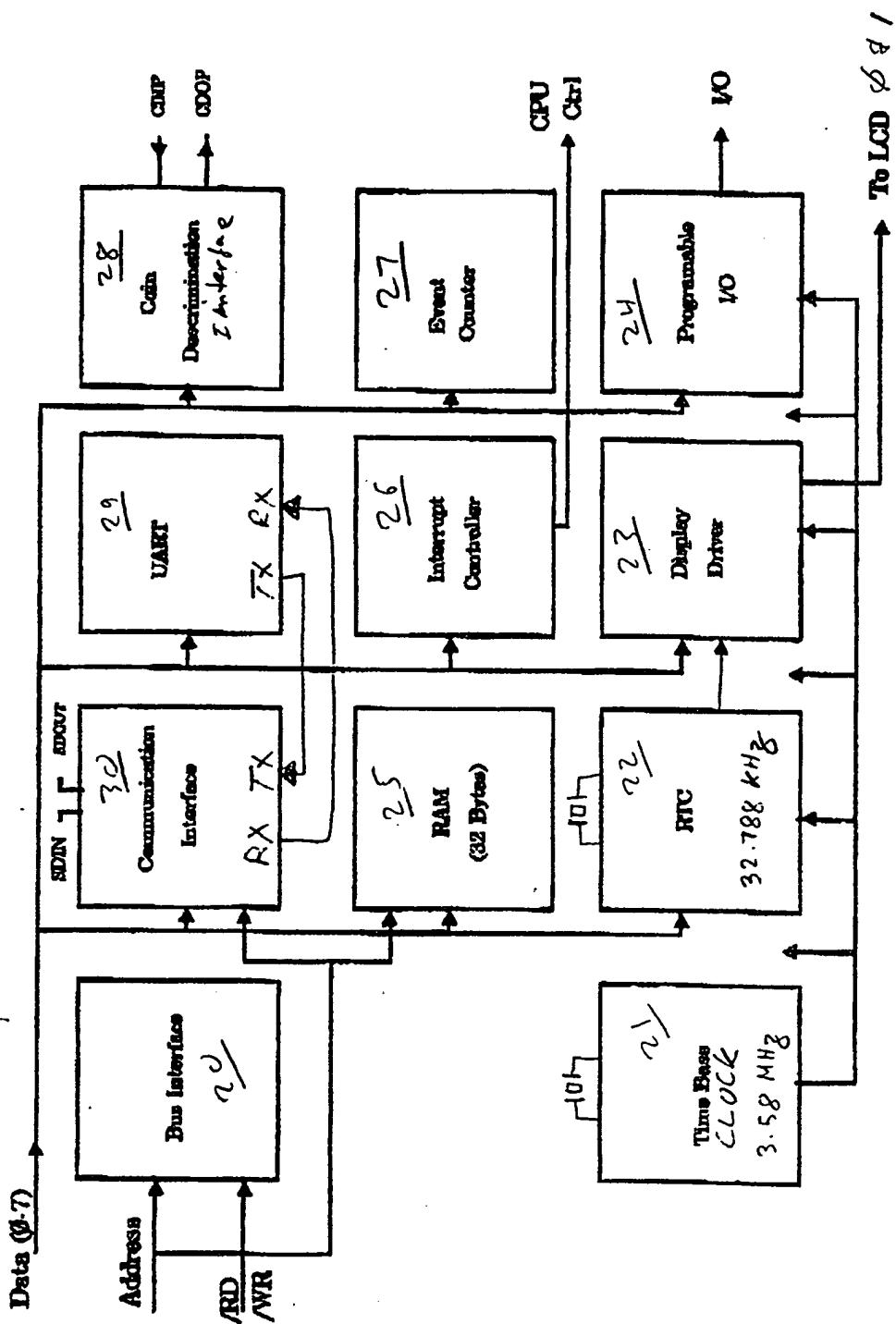


FIGURE 2

2097099

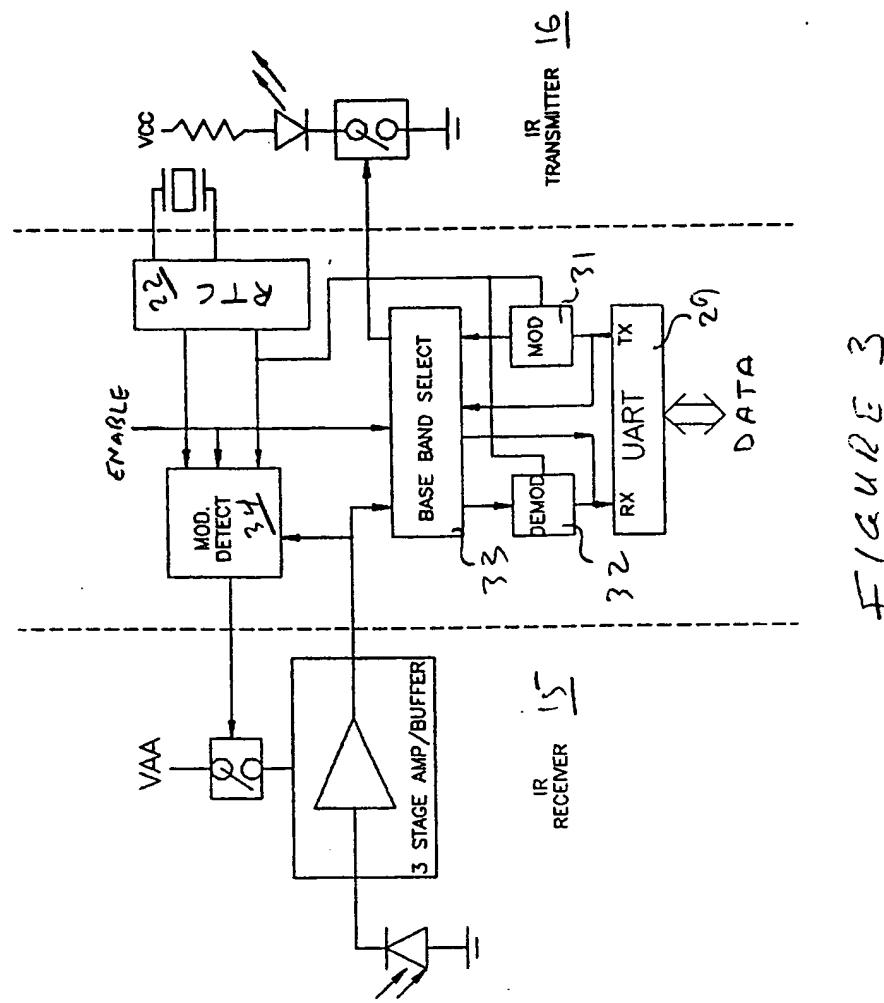


FIGURE 3

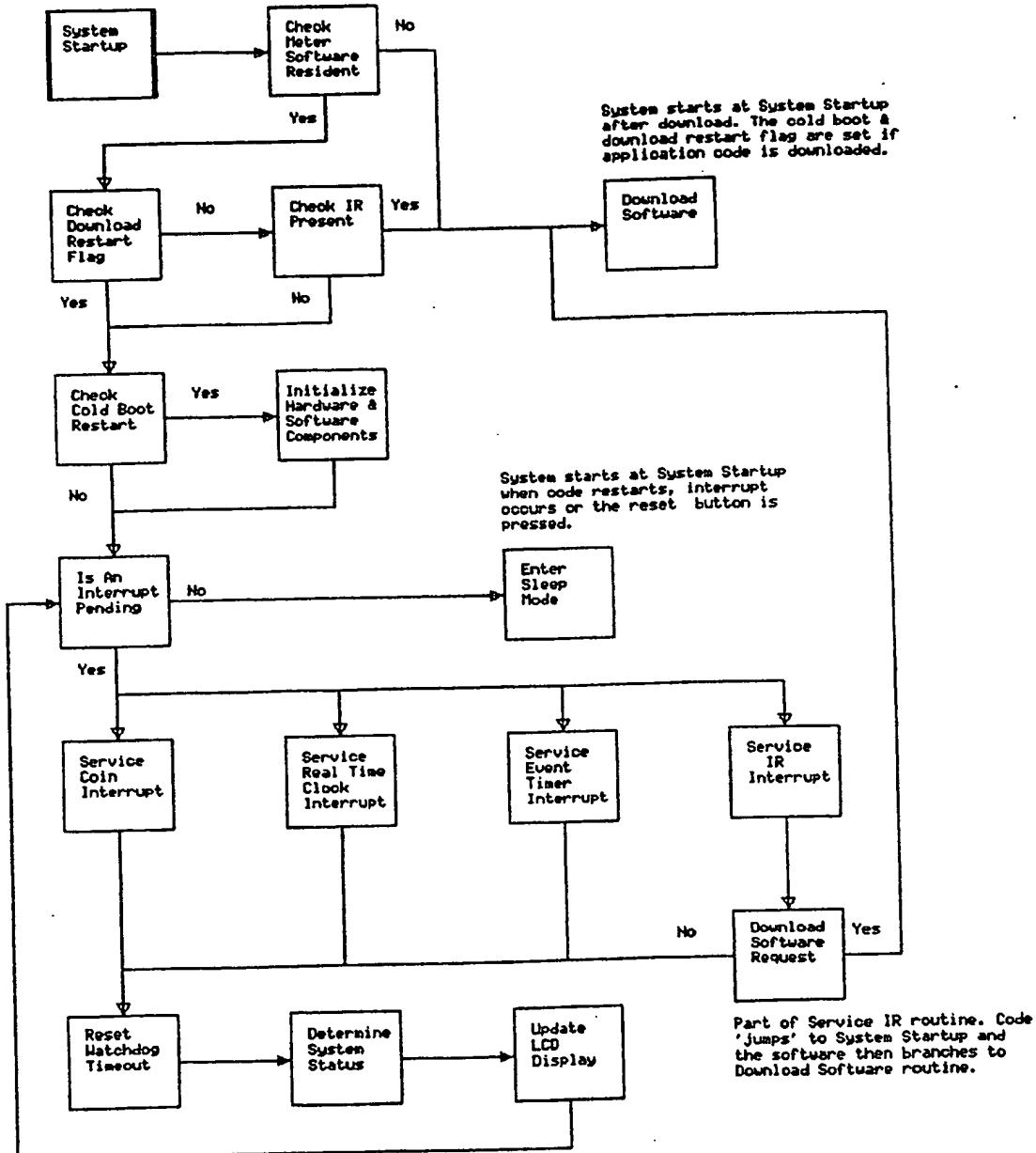


FIGURE 4

2097099

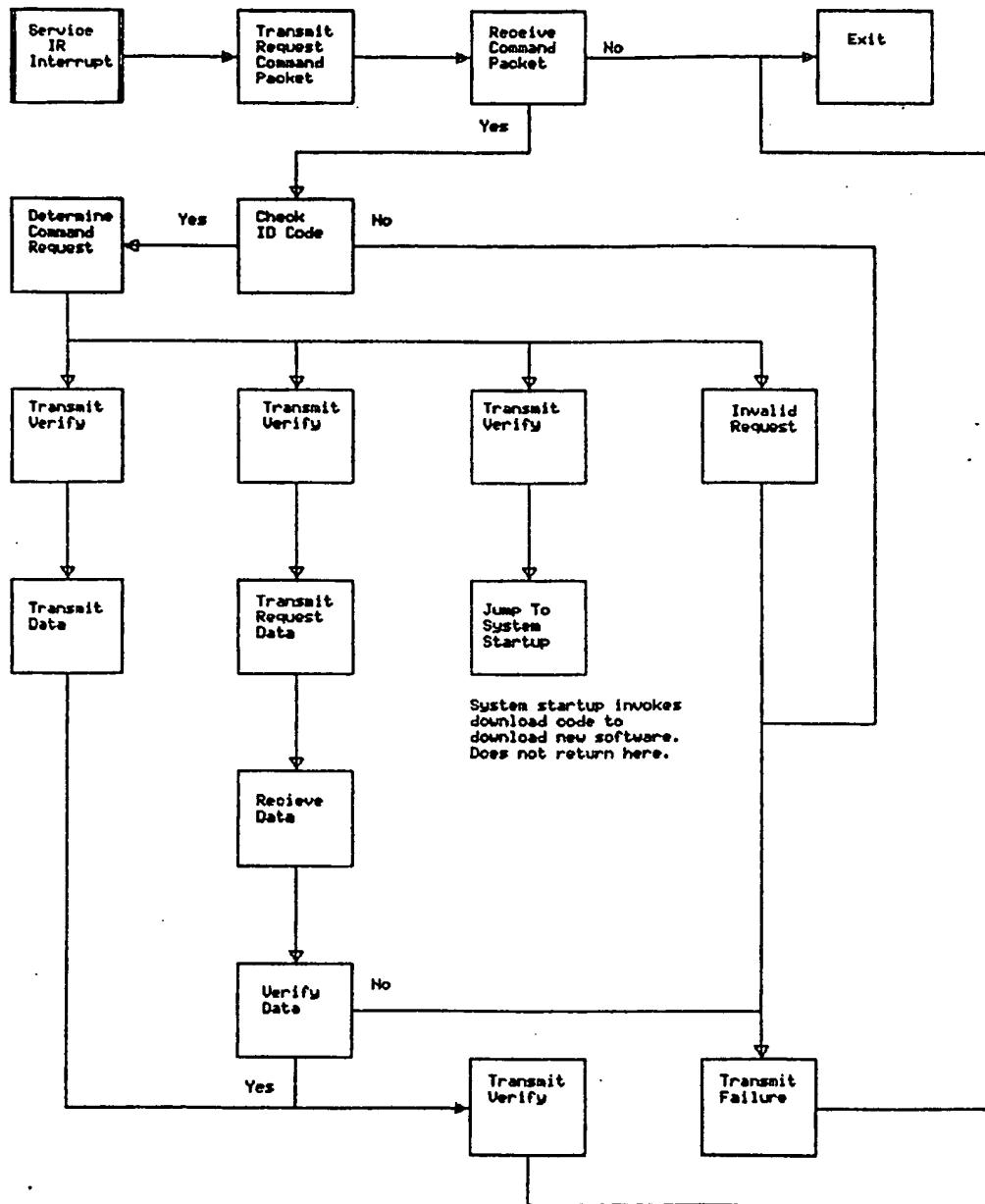


FIGURE 5

2097099

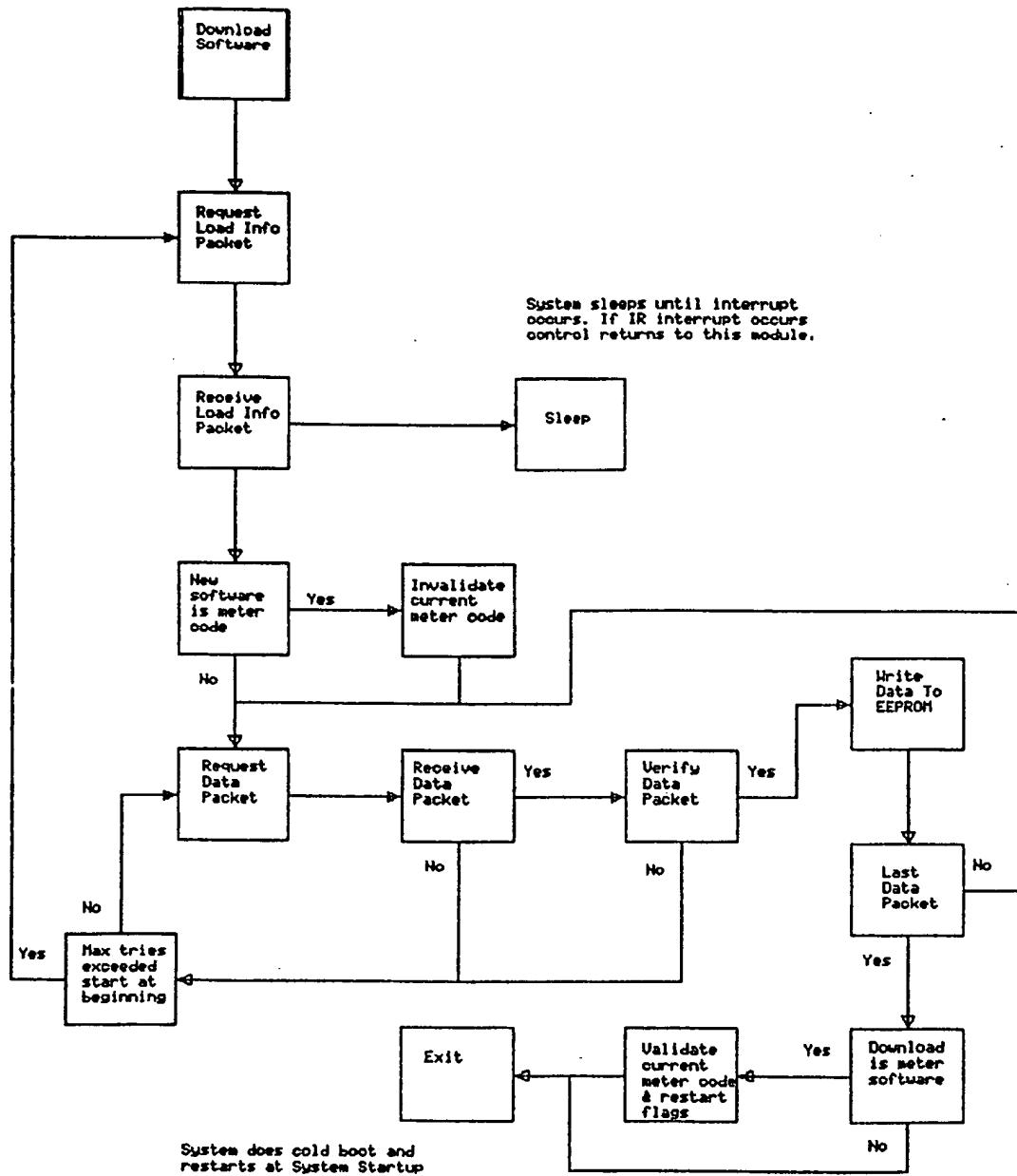


FIGURE G